

# NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

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## *Honolulu Coin Club's 40th Year*

BY Gregory Hunt

On May 6, 1955 the Honolulu Coin Club was founded by United States Marine Corp Captain Charles J. Laskowski. This founding father, held the first meeting at the St. Louis Alumni Clubhouse, 925 Isenberg Street on Monday nights at 7:30 pm. Mr. Henry Kenway Luke is credited with naming the club. Its first club newsletter was called "The Koin Klubber".

Since these humble beginnings the Honolulu Coin Club has moved house several times. The Hawaiian Electric Co. Building, Downtown YMCA Building, the St. Andrew's Von Holt Room, and the present site, Susannah Wesley Community Center have all housed the club. Our many leaders have helped the club grow into the largest coin club in the state. We have been the beneficiaries of their foresight and determination to make coin collecting a family hobby.

We are presently over 340 members strong. We have about twelve junior members who also meet regularly under the adult supervision of Mr. Gary Lau and Mr. Jimmy Silva. Our members are of every ethnic mix and live throughout the world and Hawaii.

The club is very active with its joint effort to produce its own newsletter "Nui Hou Dala Paa" three times a year since 1981. Sponsorship of the Mini HSNA/Honolulu Coin Club Show in May since 1981, the Statehood Coin Show in August since 1977, as well

as, the Hawaii State Numismatic Association annual statewide coin show in November since 1964.

We hold meetings twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month except November and December at 1117 Kaili Street at Susannah Wesley Community Center at 7:30 pm. Because of the HSNA Coin Show and Christmas we meet on the fourth Wednesday in November and the second Wednesday in December.

The club sponsors exhibits during all our coin shows as well as special contests during the year. It has made many wooden tokens as well as medals during its existence. Many of them have obtained high market value due to limited issues. At present we are awaiting reception of our 1994 Statehood Show Medal and gearing up for the HSNA medal and token for November.

Once a year we celebrate the Christmas Season with our Annual Christmas Party. Over one-hundred members take their time to attend. A sumptuous dinner is prepared by members and usually includes a generous helping of sirloin steak, potato-macaroni salad, taco salad, rice, fried noodles, corn on the cob, biscuits, desserts, iced tea, and juice. The meal is followed by three to four hours of non-stop fun where games are played and prizes are won. Each year since 1982 we have printed our own Christmas Money which is distributed to all in attendance. This money is used to bid on surprise goodies.

This entire year, from May 6, 1994 through May 5, 1995, we celebrate our fortieth anniversary. The Honolulu Coin Club is the oldest and largest coin club in Hawaii because of strong leadership. Special thanks must go to past friends, club officers, and directors, especially Kalfred Lum and David Martin (deceased), as well as, Charles Matsuda, Marion Kendrick, Wah Kui Young, Gary Lau, James Silva, Shirley King, Crane Saito, Rick Howsley, Helen Carmody, Francis Ushiroda, and the whole gang of core helpers who make our club so special. A special commemorative medal will be made to celebrate this event. Here is wishing the club many more birthdays!



# TRANSPORTATION TOKENS OF HAWAII

By Kazuma Oyama

In recent years the public, newspapers and politicians were involved in discussions about improving mass transportation as a means of controlling our ever increasing traffic congestion on Oahu. A fixed rail system proposed by the mayor, for which a sizable amount of federal transportation funds was available, was killed by the City Council. Some other proposals were to increase the number of buses, allow private jitney buses, and even use of tour buses.

Once upon a time, even before the population sprawl of the City and County of Honolulu, we had a multiple public transportation system that covered most of Oahu. The Honolulu Rapid Transit (HRT) covered the city from Kalihi to Kaimuki and up Liliha and Nuuanu, and to Waikiki. Oahu Railway & Land Co. (O.R.&L. Co.) provided services from Honolulu to Kahuku via Kaena Point which included Aiea, Pearl City, Waipahu, Ewa, Nanakuli, Waianae, Waialua, and Haleiwa; and also service to Wahiawa and Schofield Barracks via Waipahu and Waieale/Waikakalaua gulches. The Pearl Harbors Drivers Association provided service between Pearl Harbor Navy Base and the Honolulu YMCA. Rosecrans provided jitney service between Fort Shafter and Waikiki. I believe there was a "Windward Bus" that provided service from the Kaneohe area to Honolulu, and Wahiawa Transport furnished bus transportation between Wahiawa, Schofield, and Honolulu.

Reminders of some of these transportation companies are available in the form of tokens as listed in the book Hawaiian Money Standard Catalog (Metcalf & Russell). Listed are six varieties of Honolulu Rapid Transit including the hula girl token which was superseded by tickets before it was put into use. Pearl Harbor Drivers Association also had six varieties. Rosecrans has only one token listed. The other companies evidently used tickets or were on the cash basis as no tokens have been discovered.

The islands of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai also had public transportation as evidenced by tokens. There is a Nawiliwili Transportation Co. token of Kauai and Maui had the Kahului Railroad Co. tokens. The "Big Island" of Hawaii had several tokens from transportation services in the Hilo area: Hawaii Bus

Association, Kuwada Bus Service, Transilux Ltd., Red Checker Buses, and Waiakea Mill Co. There is also a Union Bus Line listed. Any reader know where this operated? Perhaps up in Kohala where there was a Union Mill?

The island of Hawaii had two railways but no tokens. The Hawaii Consolidated Railway (Hilo Railroad) operated between 1899 and 1946. One route was from Hilo up the Hamakua coast to Paaui, the other from Hilo toward Kilauea Volcano to Glenwood and toward the coast to Pahoa and Opihikau. Damage to the tracks and the high, long bridges caused by the great tsunami (tidal wave) of April 1, 1946 hastened the demise of the Hawaii Consolidated Railways. The Hawaii Railway (Hawaiian Railroad) operated between 1880 and 1945 in Kohala. The route was from the port at Mahukona in west Kohala to the north Kohala sugar cane companies - Hawi Mill, Union Mill, Halawa Plantation, Kohala Plantation and Niulii Plantations (Hart's Mill). King Kalakaua rode this train from Mahukona to Kapaa to dedicate the original statue of King Kamehameha I. The statue in Honolulu is a duplicate of this original which was thought lost when the ship bringing it to Honolulu burned at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands. The ship was enroute from Italy to Honolulu via Cape Horn, South America.

There is a transportation token collectors club called the **American Vecturist Association (AVA)** that published a catalog listing and describing all known transportation tokens of the United States and Canada. It also issues a monthly newsletter and holds an annual convention. Interested persons may write to the following person for membership and other details: Mr. Jim Coffee, Jr., P.O. Box 1204, Boston, Massachusetts 02104.



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# U.S. COMMEMORATIVE COINS 1892-1954

By Irving Kam

When originally asked to do an article on U.S. commemorative coins for beginning collectors, the timing didn't seem quite right as slab mania was still the rage. Looking back in hind-sight, prices were indeed precariously inflated and the certainty of a downward adjustment was already in motion. The cycle has evolved itself as you read this and currently present an opportune time to contemplate this fascinating series. Overall values are again at an affordable level and many issues appear to be cheaper than it's been in a long while. History abounds, as does genuinely low mintages, and the diversity of designs offer a uniquely exciting challenge.

Keeping within parameters of the more modestly priced coins, a very brief insight of what can be expected is offered. Beginning with the earliest commemorative half dollar, the Columbian Exposition of both 1892 and 1893 was authorized to help subsidize the cost of staging a World's Fair in Chicago. Irregardless of it's large mintages, nice souvenir keepsakes of the Charles E. Barber (Barber coinage 1892-1916)/George T. Morgan (Morgan Dollars 1878-1921) design is not easily encountered. Many coins have been graded typical uncirculated despite a persistent rub on Columbus's cheekbone and eyebrow area. In fact, toned pieces, often with magnificent coloring and with the same rub, are graded even higher. Beware. As with the Columbian Expos, a large percentage of Monroes were released into circulation at face value and the end result is apparent. Lots of contact marks, wear, little or no luster, and harsh cleaning make this issue a tough one to locate. In contrast, an Iowa should pose no major obstacles as the majority have survived in various degrees of mint state. Check eagle carefully for rub, as opposed to a weakness in strike, since sliders are also plentiful. The Lexington Concord is another case where many toned examples, with friction on the minute man's knee area and at the corners of Old Belfry, have been designated as uncirculated. Both the Booker T. Washington and the Washington-Carver are readily available in unused condition but is plagued with unattractive nicks and digs and always in the most conspicuous locations. Decent PDS sets with evenly matched coins are especially difficult. Check out the

comparatively minuscule net mintages on some of these sets. The popular Stone Mountain come in the multitude of grades and interesting die varieties exist. An Arkansas type coin will be a hard addition due in part to a design that is susceptible to bag marks and abrasions. Weak strikes and a dull subdued mint luster are also characteristics of this issue. Obtaining a pleasing Cleveland should present a minimum of effort and one need only exercise a bit of patience. While the representation of a Dutch settler and masted schooner on the Long Island is attractive, the layout affords little or no place for handling marks to hide. Many coins were marred this way but eventually enough turn up to make the search worthwhile. These also appear with dazzling iridescent coloration. The final commemorative chosen to be included here is the Oregon Trail which many have deemed America's most beautiful silver coin. Strike, luster, and eye appeal differ broadly from coin to coin but the selection of a type specimen should be unconstrained if aforementioned caveats are considered.

Grading has never been any more critical than in the past dozen or so years. Whether it's commemorative coins or any other series, knowledge is key and the pursuit of such is as much a part of the hobby as the actual collecting itself. What an eerie feeling it is to be dependent on what someone else puts on the holder. Experience is the best teacher but we are very fortunate to have well researched publications at our disposal. Recommended reading includes "The Encyclopedia of United States Silver and Gold Commemorative Coins" by Anthony Swiatek and Walter Breen, "Commemorative Coins of the United States" by Q. David Bowers, quite respectively.

Another means to increase or enhance one's numismatic education is via membership in the highly endorsed organization called the Society For U.S. Commemorative Coins. Now in it's eleventh year, they publish "The Commemorative Trail", an award winning journal which roll off the presses quarterly. Dues are currently twenty dollars per year and represent the best commemorative deal around. All inquiries may be directed to:

Society of U.S. Commemorative Coins  
P.O. Box 302  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-0302

In ending this terse composition, hopes are to spark an interest in this extraordinary specialty, and the fire to know why.

Aloha! Pau



# Loose change and common cents

By F. Loo

Attending auctions on the mainland where thousands of different and valuable coins are sold is one of the most educational means of learning the true market value of coins. In listing the coins being offered for sale, the auction companies usually try to give as accurate a description as possible. Interestingly, the auction houses appear to be most accurate when they describe coins as having been cleaned. They use terms such as old cleaning, lightly cleaned and harshly cleaned.

Four to five years ago, when auction coins were described as being cleaned, I could usually expect to buy those coins at lower prices. However, during the past year or so, I have experienced full prices on most cleaned coins. Did the market rejection of cleaned coins change during the past few years? If you are a collector, I would appreciate if you would share your opinion with me, regarding whether you are willing to include cleaned coins in your collection.

Before you respond, let me explain that a coin that is in XF or AU condition and is cleaned, and is graded and sold as a new coin is never acceptable. A deception of this type, selling cleaned coins at overgraded prices, is probably the reason why cleaned coins have suffered from a bad reputation. However, a VF coin, which is expertly cleaned and results in an attractive (not shiny) appearance and sold at a VF price, is usually acceptable to me. Aha, but you say you only want original coins. Fine, but think long and hard on what handling a coin has to endure, what substances it has been exposed to, and the many types of locations where it may have been placed. Yes, coins have been placed or hidden and found in, ahem, unspeakable places. And you still want original coins?

Now you may say that new coins should be OK if they're original. Even new coins kept by the mint were stored in damp underground places in mildewy canvas sacks. Or, maybe somebody's dirty socks were used to safely hide some nice new coins. Perhaps, it may be just as well that I don't know

where they may have been hidden or stored, but I still like to collect coins, original or cleaned.

If you take a bath, whether on a daily, weekly or annual basis, don't you feel good afterwards? You feel nice and clean and fresh. You are probably more acceptable to other people, especially when in close proximity. Why can't the same principle apply to a coin that has been given a proper bath? However, when taking a bath, suppose you scrub yourself very roughly and end up raw and bleeding. Of course, then you may be unpresentable. The same effect applies to a coin that has been harshly cleaned. An improperly or harshly cleaned coin can justifiably be rejected by most collectors. This is the reason why dealers and experienced collectors wisely advise novices not to clean coins. The logic behind not cleaning coins is not because a cleaned coin is bad, but because a coin can be cleaned badly.

One advantage of a cleaned coin is that you can usually see all defects and flaws. On a so-called original or dirty coin, defects or flaws may be and are quite often purposely hidden. You should carefully inspect any coin that has dark toning or irregular splotchy patches of color. Look at those toned areas for any surface defects, scratches, nicks or repair underneath the color. There are a few individuals who can apply color to coins to get higher certified grades. Wiser collectors would probably prefer to acquire a coin which has been expertly cleaned and which will expose any defects/flaws than to get a coin which has been skillfully darkened to hide such defects/flaws.

In summary, the following thoughts about cleaned coins are offered:

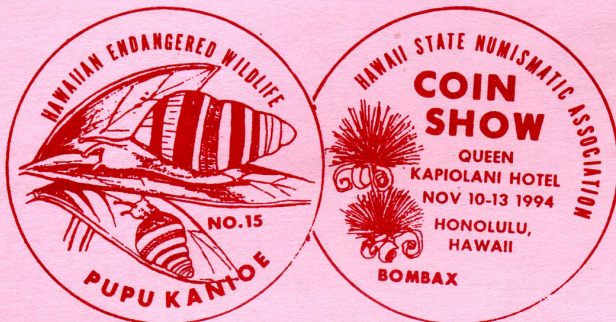
- 1) A coin that is cleaned and sold at a higher grade than it actually is, can be considered a deception and is undesirable.
- 2) A coin that has been expertly cleaned, resulting in an attractive appearance, and sold at the proper grade should be OK, and can be more desirable than an original/dirty coin.
- 3) A cleaned coin may be advantageous because defects and flaws are not hidden as may happen on an original/dirty coin.

Badly cleaned and/or polished coins must be evaluated on an individual basis. This is why cleaned coins cannot be graded. If you have any different opinions or other insights, please share them with me at a Honolulu Coin Club meeting!



# Pupu Kanioe

By C. Matsuda



Pupu Kanioe, the Hawaiian Tree Snail (*Achatinellinae*) known also as the Oahu Tree Snail is our No. 15 wooden token in the series of Hawaiian Endangered Wildlife. The Pupu Kanioe has a smooth glossy shell which is about three-fourth inch in length. It has a beautiful shell line in yellowish ochre, black, brown and white stripes trim in a variety of patterns.

The early European explorers once believed that the Pupu Kanioe were singing tree snails, mistaken by the sound of crickets that occupy the same forest. They are found on the Ko'olau and Waianae mountain ranges on the Leeward side of the island of Oahu. These snails are rapidly disappearing because of the disturbance of their habitat due to progress and predation by rats and other carnivorous snails.

The reverse of the wood features the Bombax (*Deciduous Etymology*) sometimes known as the silk-cotton tree. A native of Mexico and Central America, this tree prefers light, open soils, and thrives under tropical conditions an ideal plant for Hawaii. The Bombax has flowers before the leaves and consist of five purple petals, which are fused together at first, but curling backwards later and forming a nice feathery cluster of silky, pale-pink stamens, ending in golden-yellow anther.

To all milk covers and POG collectors, the Bombax is on the Honolulu Dairymen's Flower Series. The flower is printed as No. 195 in the series and is colored with a red on a white background. The milk cover was made in 1955 when milk still came in a bottle with a inch of cream on the top. That was real

milk then. To order your wood; send 50¢ per wood enclosed with a self-addressed stamped envelop to: Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818.



**HAVE FUN!**  
**JOIN A COIN CLUB!**

*Honolulu Coin Club*

The Honolulu Coin Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Susannah Wesley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street, 7:30 p.m. Gregory Hunt, president.

*Season  
greetings!*



*Best Wishes,  
from HSNA and the  
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